REMARKS

Consistent with the Advisory Action mailed November 5, 2004, claim 39 has been canceled and claim 40 has been placed in independent form including all the claim limitations of the rejected base claim. Therefore, as indicated in the Advisory Action mailed November 5, 2004, claims 40-45 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, allowance of claims 40-45 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims##, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/318,614 Amendment filed November 22, 2004 Reply to OA dated July 21, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS, HANSON & BROOKS, LLP

A Il Steen

George N. Stevens

Attorney for Applicant Reg. No. 36,938

GNS/nrp Atty. Docket No. **990531** Suite 1000 1725 K Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20006 (202) 659-2930

23850
PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

H:\HOME\GSTEVENS\99\990531\Amendment 11-22-04